



# Victims' Voice Newsletter

Volume #3 | Issue #1 | Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services



## Announcement...

During this quarterly issue of Victims' Voice, we highlight April as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We recognize the traumatic impact of sexual violence. We support survivors and will continue to work to increase services for people who have experienced sexual crime.

April 24-30 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week with the theme of: Rights, Access, Equity, for All Victims. This year's theme underscores the importance of helping crime survivors find their justice by enforcing victims' rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all crime victims.

We are also hosting an Empty Place at the Table exhibit in Great Falls, April 19-21, 2022 at the Cascade County Courthouse. Come check it out! Accountability and justice look different for every survivor and we are dedicated to empowering survivors with opportunities to promote healing. Thank you all for being a fundamental part of this empowerment!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Victims' Voice newsletter. Please send any feedback, content suggestions, and ideas for future publications to [CorVictimLiaisonemt.gov](mailto:CorVictimLiaisonemt.gov).

### What's inside our latest issue:

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**EVERY 68 SECONDS,  
AN AMERICAN IS ASSAULTED**

<https://www.rainn.org/statistics> 🔍

# Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual assault can take many different forms and be defined in different ways, but one thing remains the same: it's never the victim's fault.

“  
*Rape is the only crime in which the victim becomes the accused.*  
- Freda Adler  
”

- On average, there are 463,634 victims (age 12+) of rape and sexual assault each year.
- Age 12-34 are the highest risk years for rape and sexual assault.
- About 3% of American men or 1 in 33 have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.
- 1 out of every 10 rape victims are male.
- 55% of sexual assaults occurred at or near the victim's home, 15% in an open public space.

## Need Help?

Call 800.656.HOPE (4673) to be connected with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area. The National Sexual Assault Hotline is a safe, confidential service.



# PREA: Prison Rape Elimination Act

The Montana Department of Corrections takes the safety and security of staff and offenders at its facilities seriously. This includes complying with the Prison Rape Elimination Act signed into law by President Bush on Sept. 4, 2003. This law was enacted to address the detection, prevention, reduction and prosecution of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in all correctional facilities in the nation.

**Nationwide, an estimated 80,600 inmates each year experience sexual violence.**



PREA: Assures your right to be safe from sexual abuse and sexual harassment

## Rights as a Victim of Sexual Abuse

- The right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- The right to report privately, safely, and in different ways.
- The right to have an advocate or support person available for a forensic medical exam.
- The right to get help from trained medical and mental health care professionals.
- The right to have an advocate or liaison with you through the investigation process.

## Reporting Suspected Sexual Abuse or Sexual Harassment

Anyone who suspects or has knowledge of any sexual harassment, sexual abuse or sexual misconduct in any juvenile or adult correctional facility should report it to a staff member, volunteer, supervisor, administrator, human resources official or the PREA unit.

DOC PREA Unit:  
5 S. Last Chance Gulch  
PO Box 201301  
Helena, MT 59620- 1301  
CORPREAreporting@mt.gov

Inmates may file grievances, tell their case manager or unit manager, or speak with a correctional officer or any staff member with whom they feel comfortable and trust. Anyone who receives a report of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in any confinement setting must send it up the chain of command for investigation and disposition.

For more information, please visit:  
<https://cor.mt.gov/PREA/>

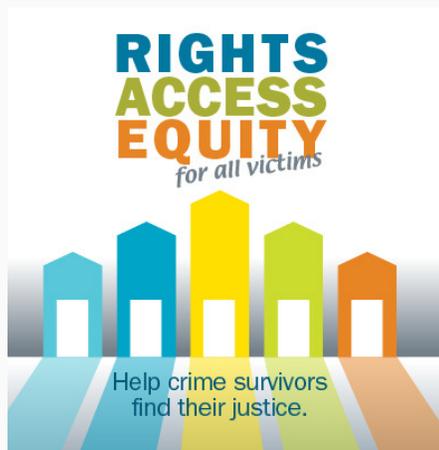
# CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

April 24-30, 2022

## What is National Crime Victims' Rights Week?

<https://victimssupportservices.org/events/national-crime-victims-rights-week/>

Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week is celebrated every year in April. This week is dedicated to learn about victimization, the effect victimization has on individuals, families, friends and the community, and to promote laws, policies, and programs to help victims of crime. Every year, thousands of communities across the nation honor the dedication of those before us that established victim rights and renew commitment to guarantee that all victims have the rights and services they need to recover from crime. Victim Support Services participate in marches, tree-planting ceremonies, and many other activities that are held each year to promote victims' rights and to honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.



### ***Rights, access, equity, for all victims***

- ***Enforcing victims' rights,***
- ***expanding access to services, and***
- ***ensuring equity and inclusion for all.***

**NOVA, National Organization for Victim Assistance**, offers free trainings and exciting events throughout the week. To view the schedule and register, please visit:

<https://www.trynova.org/ncvrw/>

**Monday, April 25:** The Myth of "Closure," and Viewing the Clery Act through an Intersectional Lens

**Tuesday, April 26:** Cold Case Advocacy- Project Cold Case

**Wednesday, April 27:** Panel: Developing Collaborative Partnerships & Services in Rural Communities, and Victim Rights for American Indian/Alaskan Native Survivors of Violent Crime Victimization

**Thursday, April 28:** Incorporating Anti-Ableism into Victim Services, and Wellness for Advocates

**Friday, April 29:** Virtual 5K: Raise Awareness for Victims' Rights

**Saturday, April 30:** Virtual 5K: Raise Awareness for Victims' Rights



# Montana Board of Crime Control: Educational Power Hour

[HTTPS://PUBLIC.GOVDELIVERY.COM/ACCOUNTS/MTBCC/SUBSCRIBER/NEW#TAB1](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTBCC/subscriber/new#tab1)

The Montana Board of Crime Control is looking forward to the opportunity to continue offering training and networking opportunities across the State of Montana. We first want to acknowledge that we would not be able to do such work without the impetus of the Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services Unit. Through their consistent work and rapport building, they have created this wonderful network of victim service providers, corrections workers, survivors, law enforcement, and many more involved in the criminal justice system.

Beginning in April, the Educational Power Hour will be hosted through the Zoom platform. Please use the following link to register with MBCC for subscription updates. Following the final presentation by DOC on Tuesday, March 29th, MBCC will be sending out the Zoom registration link via the above subscription link. You can register at any time.

Please ensure you check the Education and Training and Educational Power Hour boxes to subscribe! You also have the opportunity to sign up for information related to funding opportunities, the Crime Prevention Conference, and other related information!

We cannot wait to begin working with you all and growing as a community!

- Tawny Rogers, State Victim Liaison & Jennifer Buckley, Tribal Victim Liaison



Welcome **tawny.rogers@mt.gov** ( [Sign Out](#) )

### Quick Subscribe for **tawny.rogers@mt.gov**

Montana Board of Crime Control offers updates on the topics below. Subscribe by checking the boxes; unsubscribe by unchecking the boxes.

Access your [subscriber preferences](#) to update your subscriptions or modify your password or email address without adding subscriptions.

### Subscription Topics

- Education and Training**
  - Educational Power Hour
- Montana Crime Prevention**
  - Exhibitor Opportunities
  - Presenter Opportunities

The Montana Board of Crime Control has taken over hosting the Educational Power Hour series originally hosted by the Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services. The series will continue to be hosted every Tuesday from 9:30 to 10:30 AM via Zoom. Sign up to receive updates about speakers, topics, and registration information.

*To subscribe to receive updates regarding the Educational Power Hour, please visit:*

*<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTBCC/subscriber/new#tab1>*

"Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you."  
-Mother Teresa

## UPCOMING MBCC EDUCATIONAL HOUR SERIES: STRANGULATION



### SCHEDULE

**April 5 :** Law Enforcement: Missoula Detective Nate Griesse

**April 12:** Local Advocacy Agency: The Friendship Center's Eric Parsons

**April 19:** Court: Billings City Attorney Ben Halverson and the 2017 legislation for strangulation

**April 26:** Medical: TBD

**May 3:** Court: Gallatin District Court Judge Brown

**May 10:** Community Supervision and Corrections: DV Probation and Parole Officer Heather Moore and DOC Victim Liaison Monica Huffman

**May 17:** Parole Board: Member Kristina Lucero

**May 24:** Fatality Review: What happens when all these pieces still don't work and there's a fatality?

\*Subject to change

## OTHER NEWS THIS QUARTER:

**National Sexual Assault Awareness & Child Abuse Prevention Month- April**  
**Empty Place at the Table in Great Falls- Apr.19-21**  
**Crime Victims' Rights Week - Apr. 24-30**  
**Mental Health Awareness Month- May**  
**Memorial Day - May 30\***  
**Elder Abuse Awareness Day- June 15**

\*State/Federal Holidays

## CONTACT US

The Victim Services program office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (MT) Monday through Friday except for state and federal holidays.

It is our practice to return calls within 48 hours. Please leave a voicemail including your name, number, and any pertinent information you can provide.

### Address:

5 S. Last Chance Gulch  
Helena, MT 59601  
P.O. Box 201301



**Fax:** (406) 444-4920

**Helpline:** (406) 444-0447 or Toll Free:  
(888) 223-6332

**Website:** <https://cor.mt.gov/victims>

**Email:** [CORVictimLiaison@mt.gov](mailto:CORVictimLiaison@mt.gov)